Modernisation of Powerlooms

*195. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposed an out lay of Rs. 250 crore for the modernisation of powerlooms in the country during the Eighth Plan period ;

(b) whether Government have ascertained the grievances of the powerlooms industry in the country;

(c) if so, how much allocation would be made to each State Government for modernisation of powerlooms; and

(d) what is the extent to which the production by powerlooms is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approval of the Planning Commission on the VIIIth Five Year Plan proposal is still awaited.

(d) The proposed target of cloth production by the powerloom sector, at the terminal year of VIIIth Five Year Plan i.e. 1996-97 is 18,000 MN. SQ. MTRS.

Developments in Kabul

*196 SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any damage to the Indian Embassy buildings in Kabul and physical harm to the staff of the Embassy have been caused as a result of recent transfer of power in Afghanistan ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) There has been no damage to Indian Embassy buildings in Kabul apart from superficial bullet holes on the outer walls of some buildings and shattered glass due to gun and rocket fire. All personnel of the Indian Embassy are unharmed and safe.

High Court Benches in the Country

*197. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of High Court benches functioning in the country at present and their break-up, Statewise;

(b) what has been the main criteria of setting up of these benches in different States;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to establish more High Court benches in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the new proposals under consideration of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) It has been decided to establish Benches of Gauhati High Court in the Capitals of the States of Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Proposal received from the Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta High Court for establishing a Bench of the High Court in North West Bengal is engaging the attention of the Government. Establishment of more High Court Benches may be considered, if and when proposals are received from the concerned State Governments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts.